



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

18 May 2005

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the **COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION** to:

TOPOFF-3 EXERCISE PLAYERS TEAM

For services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from April 3-8, 2005 while a member of the TOPOFF-3 Exercise Players Team. Demonstrating outstanding technical ability, superior teamwork, and untiring enthusiasm, the TOPOFF-3 Exercise Players Team formed the Unified Command for the New London venue of TOPOFF-3 and flawlessly responded to the largest weapons of mass destruction drill ever conducted in the United States. TOPOFF-3 was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) and was the Commandant's highest contingency planning exercise priority for 2005. In all, there were an estimated 10,000 individual participants from 200 federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and international agencies and organizations playing in the exercise in four venues simultaneously. Upon initial notification of the exercise incident, the Exercise Players Team expertly focused the appropriate Coast Guard resources on first response actions. As the scenario developed, the Exercise Players Team became part of the TOPOFF-3 Unified Command and began development of a comprehensive incident action plan. This is especially noteworthy since unified command had not been established at any preceding TOPOFF exercise. Energetic and well organized, team members undertook and overcame the daunting task of coordinating and aligning the hazardous material spill and port security response efforts of not only all participating Coast Guard units, but also the combined resources of all the other members of the unified command, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Connecticut Department of Health, Connecticut State Police, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, New London Fire Department, New London Police Department and American Red Cross. As TOPOFF-3 was the first real opportunity to validate the recently released National Response Plan, the Exercise Players Team captured valuable lessons learned that will shape national incident management and support policy for years to come. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by the members of the TOPOFF-3 Exercise Response Team reflect credit upon each team member and the United States Coast Guard."

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Boynton", is positioned above the printed name.

P. J. BOYNTON

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Group/Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound